

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A solid soap preparation in the form of sheets or strips comprising

a soap,

at least one film- or backbone-forming polymer selected from the group consisting of
polyamides, polyacrylates, polyamino acids, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene
glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, pullulan, alginic acid and mixtures thereof, and

air bubbles,

~~characterized in that it is solid and is present in the form of sheets or strips whose thickness does~~
~~not exceed 5 mm~~
wherein the thickness of said solid soap preparation does not exceed 5 mm.
2. (Original) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is elastic and plastic.
3. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a substance from the group of water-soluble sodium, potassium or ammonium salts of saturated or unsaturated higher fatty acids, of resin acids of colophony, of naphthenic acids, of surfactants or a mixture thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the film- or backbone-forming polymer is polyvinylalcohol ~~a natural and/or synthetic polymer.~~
5. (Currently amended) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 4 ~~claim 1~~, characterized in that the film- or backbone-forming polymer is polyvinylalcohol that is partially hydrolyzed,

with a degree of hydrolysis of between 80 and 95%. ~~from the group of polyamides, polyacrylates, polyamino acids, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, pullulan, alginic acid, starch, cellulose and cellulose derivatives or a mixture thereof.~~

6. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a foam former.

7. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air bubbles constitute 0.5 to 98% of the volume of the soap preparation.

8. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 1 and 0.05 g/cm³.

9. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm³.

10. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the expandability is less than 25%.

11. (Currently amended) A method of producing a solid soap preparation of claim 1 ~~which comprises a soap, at least one film or backbone-forming polymer and air bubbles, comprising the steps:~~

- a) mixing of soap and at least one film- or backbone-forming polymer in water,
- b) stirring this aqueous mixture in the presence of air whereby air bubbles are introduced into the aqueous mixture giving a foamy mass,
- c) placing the foamy mass onto a weblike support, coating a traveling web or filling hollow bodies or deep-drawn blisters with the foamy mass,

d) transporting the foaming mass into a drying tunnel whereby water is removed and drying the coated traveling web or the filled hollow bodies or deep-drawn blister, during which the solid soap preparation is formed.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that an additional compression step can be carried out after the drying step.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the resulting solid soap preparation is divided into individual doses by means of by cutting lengthways, cutting crossways and/or punching.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The use of a solid soap preparation which comprises a soap, at least one film or backbone-forming polymer and air bubbles for use in toilet bowls, wash basins, washing machines, dishwashers, a bodycare, for cleansing the face, hair washing, hand washing, as WC cleaners, as kitchen cleaners, bath cleaners, window cleaners, multipurpose cleaners, stain removers, drain cleaners, sanitary cleaners, car window cleaners, floor cleaners, furniture care compositions, in the industrial sector, for the cleaning of shoes, as additive to window cleaning liquid containers in cars, in hotels, while traveling, in hospitals.~~

A method of cleaning a surface selected from the group consisting of body, face, hair and hand which comprises:

- contacting the solid soap preparation of claim 1 with water,
- allowing the solid soap preparation to dissolve in said aqueous medium within a dissolution time of less than 15 seconds, and
- applying the resultant composition to said surface.

15. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the soap is a surfactant or an interface-active substance.

16. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 10 characterized in that the expandability is between 2 and 10%.

17. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 1, wherein the thickness is between 100 μm and 2 mm.
18. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 1, wherein the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium is less than 15 seconds.
19. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 18, wherein the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium is less than 5 seconds.
20. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 5, density between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm³, an expandability between 2 and 10%, a thickness between 100 μm and 2 mm and has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium of less than 5 seconds.
21. (New) The method of claim 11 whereas the drying step is carried out until the residual water content in the solid soap preparation is less than 10% by weight.
22. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air bubbles have a size of less than about 100 μm .
23. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of refatting agents, skin protectants, skin care agents, fragrances, essential oils, foam boosters, glycerol, polyols, matting agents, stabilizers, antioxidants, fragrances, dyes, antimicrobial additives, exfoliants and disinfectants.
24. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises at least one substance selected from skin oils, skin care agents and skin protectants.

25. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is free from preservatives and/or antimicrobial additives.
26. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a linear alkylsulfonate (LAS) with an alkyl length of 10-13 carbon atoms.
27. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises sodium laureth sulfate.
28. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is a single-use portion containing a predosed amount of soap.
29. (New) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that it is free from preservatives and/or antimicrobial additives, the air bubbles have a size of less than less than 30 μm , it comprises a linear alkylsulfonates (LAS) with an alkyl length of 10-13 carbon atoms, wherein the linear alkylsulfonate is sodium laureth sulfate.